

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**June 24, 2013 – 5:00 PM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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Present: Jim Sides, Chairman  
Craig Pierce, Vice-Chairman  
Jon Barber, Member  
Mike Caskey, Member  
Chad Mitchell, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Sides convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mitchell provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**1. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FUND 101 –  
GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-14**

Chairman Sides said at the last meeting there had been a 2-2 vote for approval of Fund 101. Chairman Sides said there were two (2) items of contention which were Economic Development Commission (EDC) funding and school funding.

Commissioner Mitchell said since he was the member not present at the last meeting, he would put his opinions on the floor.

Commissioner Mitchell felt it was a good budget with a lot of good coming from the budget. Commissioner Mitchell said the sticking points for him were the cuts to Rowan Museum and the school system. Commissioner Mitchell felt school funding should be kept at the fiscal year 2012-13 appropriation level.

Commissioner Mitchell said in light of recent information concerning the proposed state budget where Rowan County could receive additional revenue, the Board could re-implement the amount of funding that was cut from the FY 2012-13 school budget. Commissioner Mitchell went on to say the funding would be used for teachers and/or assistants. Commissioner Mitchell said the school system should not look at those funds for continual funding and that next year the County would look at the funding and make a decision based on the budget outlook. Commissioner Mitchell said that at a time when the state and federal governments were cutting education in Rowan County, the County should keep the \$225,000 and those funds be spent on the teachers and assistants and not lumped into the per pupil expenditure formula. Commissioner Mitchell moved to amend the proposed budget for that purpose. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barber asked Commissioner Mitchell if he would consider adding to the motion to allow the school board to place the \$375,000 teachers supply money into the current expense funding instead of earmarking those funds for classroom supplies.

Commissioner Mitchell said he did not have a problem with taking the previously earmarked supply money to allow funding for teachers and assistants.

Commissioner Pierce said he could agree with Commissioner Mitchell's recommendation, provided the funds came in from the sales tax revenue from the General Assembly's budget. Commissioner Pierce said he could second Commissioner Mitchell's motion due to the fact that if the County was to receive additional funding, he did not have a problem giving a portion to the schools. Commissioner Pierce said he wanted to see the money earmarked specifically for teachers and assistants and he wanted the \$375,000 earmarked for classroom supplies to remain intact. Commissioner Pierce explained that the \$1 million dollars for debt service had to be taken out of current funding, and therefore, the County did not have the funds to give to the schools. Commissioner Pierce stated if the new revenue source came through, he felt it only fair to give some consideration to the schools. Commissioner Pierce felt the County needed to share when it could but he emphasized the school administration needed to do their job, as well. Commissioner Pierce said the school system could undergo some restructuring, and cut costs rather than focusing on teachers and assistants to balance their budgets. Commissioner Pierce said he would like a more aggressive approach taken in streamlining their administration and the business of the schools and not keep balancing the budget on the backs of the teachers. Commissioner Pierce said he would second the motion and vote for the budget.

Chairman Sides felt the best option for the Board was to leave the idea on the table and once the State had passed the budget and monies were available, the Board could give the funds to the schools at that time.

Mr. Page pointed out the Senate's version of the budget had the County losing \$1.4 million.

Commissioner Mitchell said his motion would put into the budget that if the monies were to be received, the schools would receive that share of the money, unless another vote by the Board was taken. Commissioner Mitchell said he did not want it to go through another vote to give the schools money. Commissioner Mitchell stated he wanted it said up front that as long as the County received the money, the schools would receive the same appropriation as in FY 2012-13.

Ms. Heidrick said she would leave the budget document the way it was and if the House version passed, it would be a budget amendment in the new year.

Commissioner Mitchell emphasized that he did not want to have the money come in and the Board have a second vote on the school funding.

Chairman Sides said he did not have a problem with a second vote, but he did have a problem with changing the budget and having to pull the money out later. Chairman Sides stated he would leave the budget as is. Chairman Sides restated Commissioner Mitchell's motion saying that if the House budget passed and the County received the additional revenue, the \$225,000 would be added back to the schools.

Chairman Sides said that as long as the money was not part of the per pupil expenditure next year, he would not have a problem with it.

Commissioner Barber questioned the classroom supply funds and Chairman Sides said the funds would need to be a separate motion.

Chairman Sides restated the motion on the floor to leave the budget, as is, without the \$225,000 but should the State pass a budget that would give the County additional revenue, the \$225,000 would be allocated to the schools for teachers and assistants only.

Commissioner Barber discussed the \$375,000 allocated for classroom supply money and the impact on the economy that could be had by giving the flexibility to the school board on how the money could be used. Commissioner Barber was of the opinion that efforts should be made to keep teachers and assistants off the unemployment line. Commissioner Barber said he applauded the motion but he could not support it since he knew that the County could do better.

Commissioner Caskey asked for clarification, saying that if \$400,000 was received would the number go down. Commissioner Mitchell responded that if the County received \$225,000, \$225,000 would be restored to the schools.

Commissioner Pierce said he wanted to make sure all understood that the \$225,000 would not factor in to next year's ADM calculation and he did not want the \$225,000 to be a struggling point for next year's budget.

Commissioner Mitchell said in order to be fair, several thousand dollars would go to the City of Kannapolis School System and the charter schools.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

Chairman Sides said the only other discussion on the floor was the \$375,000 classroom supply money and whether to give it to the schools to use as they saw fit.

Commissioner Pierce moved to leave the money earmarked for supplies for classroom teachers to use as needed in their classrooms. Commissioner Caskey seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Sides said the only other contention in the budget was the \$13,000 for the Economic Development Commission (EDC), as well as the additional \$30,000 for an EDC position. Chairman Sides said he had a problem with the suggestion since the EDC had a four (4) month surplus. Chairman Sides said he could not support the recommendations.

Chairman Sides moved to not include the additional \$43,000 for the EDC and the motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the funds were currently in the proposed Fund 101 to which Ms. Heidrick responded they were.

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of Fund 101 as amended and Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Sides and Barber dissenting.

## **2. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 5:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, CMC, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board/  
Assistant to the County Manager